Production and procurement of foodgrains

231. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in food production and procurement in 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the reasons for foodgrains stocks being reduced and aggressive foodgrains export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The production and procurement of rice and wheat have declined during 2002-03.

(b) The Government undertakes export of foodgrains after meeting the full domestic requirement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes. Only the surplus stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool above the minimum buffer norms for food security are exported. A decision has been taken to stop fresh allocation of foodgrains for export w.e.f. 11th August, 2003.

Foodgrains for Southern States

232. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foodgrains allocated to Southern States for tackling drought conditions during the current calendar year, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether foodgrains have been released as per the demand of the concerned States;

(c) if not, what was the demand of each State and foodgrains actually released;

(d) the reasons for not releasing the demanded quota; and

(e) the remedial measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The details of foodgrains demanded by and